

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-13 /095 W

----- 002648

R 041542Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2537

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5354

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, IS

SUBJECT: SPECIAL KNESSET SESSION

1. JUST FOUR DAYS AFTER ITS ADJOURNMENT FOR ITS SUMMER/HIGH HOLIDAYS RECESS, THE KNESSET MET IN SPECIAL SESSION AUGUST 3 TO CONSIDER THE PLIGHT OF JEWS LIVING IN THE SOVIET UNION AND SYRIA. THE ONE DAY SESSION WAS SCHEDULED IN RESPONSE TO SEPARATE MOTIONS BY THE ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD AND WAS TIMED TO OCCUR JUST PRIOR TO THE NINTH DAY OF THE HEBREW MONTH OF AV. A DAY OF MOURNING AND FASTING FOR OBSERVANT JEWS, IT COMMEMORATES THE DESTRUCTION OF BOTH THE FIRST AND SECOND TEMPLES AND OTHER CALAMITIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

2. IN KEEPING WITH THE OCCASION, THE SESSION WAS LARGELY CEREMONIAL. MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO GIDEON HAUSNER (ISP) SPOKE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND CHARGED THAT THE USSR IS IN "BLATANT VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT" BY NOT HONORING ITS UNDERTAKING REGARDING FAMILY REUNIFICATION. HE ASSERTED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE STALLING ON THE 175,000 APPLICATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO WISH REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILIES IN ISRAEL.

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3. THE OTHER PROMINENT SPEAKER WAS YITZHAK NAVON (LABOR),

CHAIRMAN OF THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY
COMMITTEE. NAVON HAD RECENTLY VISITED USIS TO VIEW A
VTR ON SOVIET JEWRY AND TWO ON THE SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY
IN PREPARATION FOR THE KNESSET SESSION. NAVON, A FRIEND
OF THE EMBASSY WHO HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AVAILABLE VTRS
BEFORE, EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY
TO SEE THEM.
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Message Attributes

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